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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

<b>THOMAS E. PEREZ</b> , Secretary of Labor,	)	Case No.: 3:15-cv-3224
United States Department of Labor,	)	
	)	<b>COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF</b>
Plaintiff,	)	<b>THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT</b>
v.	)	
	)	
	)	
<b>NATIONAL CONSOLIDATED</b>	)	
<b>COURIERS, INC.</b> , a corporation;	)	
<b>TANWEER AHMED</b> , individually and as	)	
managing agent of National Consolidated	)	
Couriers, Inc.; <b>IRONSTONE NCCI</b>	)	
<b>LOGISTICS</b> , a corporation; and <b>AMIRA</b>	)	
<b>KHALAF</b> , individually and as managing	)	
agent of Ironstone NCCI Logistics,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

1 Plaintiff, Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of Labor, United States Department of Labor (the  
2 “Secretary”), alleges as follows:

### 3 NATURE OF THE ACTION

4 1. In this action, the Secretary seeks to enjoin Defendants National Consolidated Couriers  
5 Inc. (“NCCI”), Tanweer Ahmed, individually and as managing agent of NCCI, Ironstone NCCI  
6 Logistics (“NCCI Logistics”), and Amira Khalaf, individually and as managing agent of NCCI  
7 Logistics (collectively, “Defendants”) from violating the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of  
8 1938, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.* (the “FLSA”), pursuant to section 17 of the FLSA, 29  
9 U.S.C. § 217; and to recover the unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation owing to NCCI  
10 employees, together with an equal amount as liquidated damages, pursuant to section 16(c) of the  
11 FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(c).

### 12 PARTIES

13 2. Plaintiff Thomas E. Perez is the Secretary of Labor for the United States Department of  
14 Labor.

15 3. Defendant NCCI is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Nevada with  
16 its principal place of business in San Leandro, California. It maintains its office headquarters in San  
17 Leandro, California and has branches in other cities, including Sacramento and San Jose.

18 4. Defendant NCCI Logistics is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of  
19 California with its principal place of business in San Leandro, California. It maintains its office  
20 headquarters in San Leandro, California and has branches in other cities, including Sacramento and San  
21 Jose.

22 5. Defendant Ahmed is an individual who owns, operates, and controls NCCI. At all times  
23 material, he has been acting directly or indirectly in the interests of Defendant NCCI in relation to the  
24 employees of NCCI.

25 6. Defendant Khalaf is an individual who owns, operates, and controls NCCI Logistics. At  
26 all times material, she has been acting directly or indirectly in the interests of Defendant NCCI  
27 Logistics in relation to the employees of NCCI Logistics.  
28

**JURISDICTION**

7. Jurisdiction of this action is conferred upon the Court by sections 16(c) and 17 of the Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(c) and 217, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345.

**VENUE**

8. Venue lies in the Northern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) as a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in San Leandro, Alameda County, California.

**INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

9. Assignment of this action to the San Francisco or Oakland Divisions of the Northern District of California pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c) is proper, because a substantial part of the events or omissions which gave rise to his claim occurred in Alameda County.

**FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

10. Defendant Ahmed has operated NCCI, a courier business with a number of locations in California. A significant portion of its business involves contracts with banks, delivering sensitive material between banks and other financial centers as required under relevant banking laws. The business has been in operation in this form since at least April of 2010. Defendant Ahmed is an employer within the meaning of the FLSA because he directly or through subordinates, sets the wages, hours and working conditions of the employees who carry out the business of NCCI.

11. Defendants Ahmed and NCCI have employed drivers engaged in their courier businesses, transporting and/or delivering goods to and from NCCI's customers' locations throughout California. These drivers were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of the FLSA.

12. Defendant Khalaf operates, and has operated NCCI Logistics, a courier business with a number of locations in California. A significant portion of its business involves contracts with banks, delivering sensitive material between banks and other financial centers as required under relevant banking laws. This business has been in operation in this form since February of 2015. Defendant Khalaf is an employer within the meaning of the FLSA because she directly or through subordinates,

1 sets the wages, hours and working conditions of the employees who carry out the business of NCCI  
2 Logistics.

3 13. Defendants Khalaf and NCCI Logistics employ and have employed drivers who are or  
4 were engaged in their courier businesses, transporting and/or delivering goods to and from NCCI  
5 Logistics' customers' locations throughout California. These drivers were and are engaged in  
6 commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of the FLSA.

7 14. At all relevant times, NCCI was engaged in related activities performed through unified  
8 operation or common control for a common business purpose, and was an enterprise within the  
9 meaning of section 3(r) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r).

10 15. NCCI Logistics has, since February of 2015, been engaged in related activities  
11 performed through unified operation or common control for a common business purpose, and has been  
12 and currently is an enterprise within the meaning of section 3(r) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r).

13 16. At all relevant times, NCCI was an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production  
14 of goods for commerce within the meaning of sections 3(s)(1)(A) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §  
15 203(s)(1)(A); in that it had employees engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce,  
16 or in handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials that were moved in or produced for  
17 commerce by any person, and was an enterprise whose annual gross volume of sales made or business  
18 done is not less than \$500,000.

19 17. NCCI Logistics has, since February of 2015, been an enterprise engaged in commerce or  
20 in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of sections 3(s)(1)(A) of the FLSA, 29  
21 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1)(A); in that it has employees who were and are engaged in commerce or the  
22 production of goods for commerce, or in handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials  
23 that were moved in or produced for commerce by any person, and is an enterprise whose annual gross  
24 volume of sales made or business done is not less than \$500,000.

25 18. Defendants NCCI and Ahmed have classified their drivers who transported and/or  
26 delivered goods to and from NCCI and NCCI's customers' locations as "independent contractors" since  
27 at least April of 2010.  
28

1           19.     The drivers who work for NCCI and NCCI Logistics are integral and indispensable to  
2 Defendants' respective courier businesses.

3           20.     As a matter of economic reality, the drivers for NCCI were economically dependent on  
4 NCCI. Since February of 2015, as a matter of economic reality, the drivers for NCCI Logistics were  
5 economically dependent on NCCI Logistics.

6                                   **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
7                                   **(Violation of Minimum Wage Provisions of the FLSA)**

8           21.     The Secretary incorporates by reference and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 to  
9 20 of the Complaint.

10          22.     Drivers who work or have worked for NCCI and/or NCCI Logistics are employees  
11 entitled to the protection of the FLSA.

12          23.     Defendants are employers required to comply with the FLSA.

13          24.     During the period since April of 2010, Defendants Ahmed and NCCI have violated the  
14 provisions of sections 6 and 15(a)(2) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206 and 215(a)(2), by paying many of  
15 their drivers in California wages at rates less than \$7.25 per hour worked in workweeks when said  
16 employees were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce or were employed  
17 in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning  
18 of the FLSA, as aforesaid.

19          25.     During the period since February of 2015, Defendants Khalaf and NCCI Logistics have  
20 violated the provisions of sections 6 and 15(a)(2) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206 and 215(a)(2), by  
21 paying many of their drivers in California wages at rates less than \$7.25 per hour worked in workweeks  
22 when said employees were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce or were  
23 employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, within  
24 the meaning of the FLSA, as aforesaid.

25                                   **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
26                                   **(Violation of Overtime Provisions of the FLSA)**

1           26.     The Secretary incorporates by reference and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 to  
2 25 of the Complaint.

3           27.     During the period since April of 2010, Defendants Ahmed and NCCI have violated the  
4 provisions of Sections 7 and 15(a)(2) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207 and 215(a)(2) by paying many of  
5 their drivers in California wages at less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which they were  
6 employed for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week in workweeks when said employees were  
7 engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce or were employed in an enterprise  
8 engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the FLSA, as  
9 aforesaid.

10          28.     During the period since February of 2015, Defendants Khalaf and NCCI Logistics have  
11 violated the provisions of Sections 7 and 15(a)(2) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 207 and 215(a)(2) by  
12 paying many of their drivers in California wages at less than one and one-half times the regular rate at  
13 which they were employed for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week in workweeks when said  
14 employees were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce or were employed  
15 in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning  
16 of the FLSA, as aforesaid.

17                               **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
18                               **(Violation of Recordkeeping Provisions of the FLSA)**

19          29.     The Secretary incorporates by reference and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 to  
20 28 of the Complaint.

21          30.     During the period since April of 2010, Defendants Ahmed and NCCI have violated the  
22 provisions of sections 11(c) and 15(a)(5) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 211(c) and 215(a)(5), in that they  
23 failed to make, keep, and preserve adequate and accurate records of employees and the wages, hours  
24 and other conditions and practices of employment maintained by them as prescribed by regulations  
25 duly issued pursuant to authority granted in the FLSA and found in 29 CFR § 516.

26          31.     During the period since February of 2015, Defendants Khalaf and NCCI Logistics have  
27 violated the provisions of sections 11(c) and 15(a)(5) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 211(c) and 215(a)(5),  
28 in that they failed to make, keep, and preserve adequate and accurate records of employees and the

wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment maintained by them as prescribed by regulations duly issued pursuant to authority granted in the FLSA and found in 29 CFR § 516.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
(Retaliatory Interference under the FLSA)**

32. The Secretary incorporates by reference and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 to 31 of the Complaint.

33. Defendants Ahmed and NCCI have engaged in unlawful retaliation and interference with the Secretary's investigation into NCCI, and have willfully violated the provisions of section 11(a) and 15(a)(3) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 211(a) and 215(a)(3), in that they have retaliated against NCCI employees for having participated in the instant proceedings by *inter alia* talking to or providing information to the Secretary's representatives and/or by pursuing their rights under the FLSA. Defendants Ahmed and NCCI have further engaged in the willful destruction of evidence, thereby intentionally interfering with the Secretary's investigation.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, cause having been shown, Plaintiff prays for a judgment against Defendants as follows:

(a) For an Order pursuant to section 17 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 217, permanently enjoining and restraining Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, parties-in-interest, and those persons in active concert or participation with them from prospectively violating the minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping, investigation and anti-retaliation provisions of the FLSA;

(b) For an Order

(1) pursuant to section 16(c) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(c), finding Defendants Ahmed and NCCI liable for unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation due NCCI employees and former employees who worked in California, and for liquidated damages equal in amount to the unpaid compensation found due the employees who will be listed in Exhibit A, which will be filed forthwith as a supplemental filing, (additional back wages and liquidated damages may be owed to certain employees presently unknown to plaintiff for the period covered by this Complaint, and thus not listed on Exhibit A); or in the event liquidated damages are not awarded;

1           (2)     pursuant to section 17 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 217, enjoining and restraining  
2 Defendants Ahmed and NCCI, their officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, parties-in-  
3 interest, and those persons in active concert or participation with them, from withholding payment of  
4 unpaid back wages found to be due Defendants' employees and pre-judgment interest at an appropriate  
5 interest rate; and

6           (c)     For an Order granting such other and further relief as may be necessary or appropriate.  
7

8 Dated: July 10, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

9 M. PATRICIA SMITH  
10 Solicitor of Labor

11 JANET M. HEROLD  
12 Regional Solicitor

13 SUSAN SELETSKY  
14 Counsel for FLSA

15 By: /s/ Natalie Nardecchia  
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20 US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
21 Attorneys for the Plaintiff  
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